



# INTRODUCTION TO VOLUNTARY WORKPLACE CHAPLAINCY

A seven week training course

In the Church at Carrs Lane

**3 June – 15 July 2024**

**Monday evenings 5-7pm**

LED BY

Churches and Industry Group Birmingham - Solihull  
*(soon to be reformed as WorkCare West Midlands)*

Over a year, our volunteer chaplains **have thousands of** significant supportive conversations. We meet many more people, month in, month out in briefer interactions.



**“Chaplains re-charge our batteries”**  
*(Christmas Market Trader)*

**“My journey at times has felt unbearably hard and having the chaplain there, providing a listening ear or a smile, meant so much to me, enabling me to go back, renewed and able to carry on”**  
*(Public Sector Staff member)*



Do you feel called to serve God in your local community or workplace?

Our voluntary workplace chaplains are faithful volunteers who give about half a day a week visiting a local organisation or enterprise, befriending workers and stimulating people to wonder about God: answering questions such as ‘what are God-people doing here?’ Chaplains support staff to make sense of the highs and lows in their lives.

We have a network of around 40 voluntary chaplains in retail; fire stations; FE colleges; manufacturing; canal communities; Birmingham Airport; bus garages; and residential living.

Workplace Chaplaincy CIGB

[www.cigb.org.uk](http://www.cigb.org.uk)

Reg. Charity 511711

### Tell me more...

- The course is intended for people who are interested in exploring workplace chaplaincy as an outworking of their faith life. It introduces some of the core themes and requirements to be a workplace chaplain and provides useful information and support to equip them.
- The seven-week course will take place in The Church at Carrs Lane, Carrs Lane Birmingham, B4 7SX, opposite Moor Street Railway Station. Refreshments will be provided.
- Course teaching is informal led by current chaplains and drawing on experiences of participants. Participants attend all sessions.

### Week 1 - Why be a workplace chaplain?

### Week 2 - The chaplain as presence and pastor

### Week 3 - Understanding the context of chaplaincy

### Week 4 – The chaplain as a critical friend

### Week 5 – Faith, spirituality and chaplaincy

### Week 6 – Organising for chaplaincy (with visit to City Centre)

### Week 7 – Chaplaincy and the church (includes 1:1 with course tutor)

- Undertaking the course does not oblige or guarantee that participants will become our chaplains but before placement, we expect them to have completed the course, and we will also seek character references from suitable people they nominate.
- We are established with the Christian church and our chaplains are Christian but have experience of working alongside other faiths. Sessions will start and end with brief Christian prayers.

### Fee

- There is a charge of £50 (payable in advance) to cover some of the course costs, materials and refreshments. Please enquire if the cost is difficult as there may be bursaries available. Often students are sponsored by their Church.

### Course materials

- A course handbook supports the course from the beginning, with extra materials supporting each week. A small amount of preparatory reading before each session is encouraged.

### What then?

- At end of the course, each participant will have a 1:1 with their course tutor to discuss their progress into voluntary chaplaincy, if appropriate.
- The course is not formally accredited, but a certificate of completion is provided.
- **Volunteer opportunities in our current chaplaincy teams** include: Solihull Shopping Centre, Fire Service, bus garages, and Birmingham City Centre. The posts are all voluntary but reasonable expenses will be met.

### Who is CIGB?

- An ecumenical charity (cigb.org.uk) that supports workplace chaplaincies across the Birmingham and Solihull areas. The current chaplains visit places like Birmingham Airport, Cadbury College, Bus Garages, Canals, Fire Stations, Bullring, Kings Heath, Longbridge and Touchwood Shopping Centres.
- Its trustees are drawn from the major denominations of the Christian church.
- It is linked with other faiths and can draw on other faith advisors as necessary.
- It works with church congregations to help them connect with their local economy and working people.
- It is well connected with national chaplaincy, 'faith and economy' networks.
- It is currently forming a new charity, WorkCare West Midlands, which will expand its borders to include Coventry and Warwickshire.

Limited places are available on the course. Please sign up by **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024**.

### I'm interested

To obtain a registration form or for more information please contact: [teamadmin@cigb.org.uk](mailto:teamadmin@cigb.org.uk) or write to

CIGB, John Cadbury House, 190 Corporation Street, Birmingham B4 6QD